



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

PAUL H. O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

To: National Debate Coaches Association and Attendees  
From: Indiana University Debate c/o Brian DeLong  
Date: March 10, 2020, 6:00 PM Eastern  
Subject: NDCA Host Tournament Cancellation  
CC: NDCA Board of Directors

Dear NDCA and Tournament Attendees,

At 4:00 PM on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Indiana University President Michael McRobbie submitted an email to all Indiana University employees, staff, and students titled, "Urgent message from President Michael A. McRobbie: Covid-19." The message includes substantial changes to Indiana University policies related to the coronavirus covid-19 outbreak and IU's cautious and proactive mitigation approach. The scope of the policies and the dates that they apply to, March 23 – April 6<sup>th</sup>, **functionally make Indiana University Bloomington's hosting of the National Debate Coaches high school debate championship tournament an impossibility during the dates of April 3-6<sup>th</sup>.**

Specific lines in the policy include, "Until April 5, visitors to all IU campuses are strongly discouraged. Previously scheduled visits should be postponed." Furthermore, "For events already scheduled through April 6<sup>th</sup>, organizers are strongly encouraged to immediately consider canceling or rescheduling these."

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of Covid-19 restrictions extending beyond April 5<sup>th</sup> and the lack of time and resources to move and reschedule a conference of up to 500 people, the IU debate program and Indiana University Bloomington will be unable to welcome our guests to our campus. As our nation seeks to reduce the impact and risk of Covid-19 to vulnerable populations nation-wide, I hope the high school debate community can recognize the justification for these policies.

We are deeply saddened that we will not be able to welcome our high school friends to our beautiful campus. We look forward to the opportunity of hosting all of you in future years.

Best wishes,

Brian DeLong

IU Director of Debate  
O'Neill Senior Lecturer  
[Brdelong@indiana.edu](mailto:Brdelong@indiana.edu)  
812-856-7585